Reservation in appointment of law officers

3344. SHRI E.M. SUNDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are following the reservation policy in the appointments of Attorney General, Additional Attorney General, Solicitor General and Additional Solicitor General and other law officers for various High Courts and Supreme Court; and

(b) if so, their ratio according to the population?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir. There is no reservation for SC/ STs and OBCs in the matter of appointment of Law Officers. Eminent Advocates are appointed as Attorney General, Solicitor General and Additional Solicitor General in the Supreme Court and some High Courts. A law officer holds office for a term of three years and on the expiration of his term of office, is eligible for re-appointment to that office for a further term of three years. The appointment of Law Officer may, at any time during his term of office, be terminated by three months' notice in writing by either side.

(b) Does not arise.

'Lokpal for judiciary'

3345. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning some institution like Lokpal for the Judiciary;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Legal Aid Scheme

3346. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people benefited from the Legal Aid scheme since its inception, State-wise;

(b) the income limit prescribed to get assistance from Legal Aid Scheme;

(c) whether there is any move to raise the income limit for providing legal aid to the poor; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) The number of persons benefited from the legal aid schemes since the inception of the State Legal Aid and Advice Boards/State Legal Services Authorities, to 31st December, 2004, State-wise, is given in the Statement *(see* below).

(b) to (d) Section 12 of the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 provides for the criteria for giving legal services. Accordingly, certain categories of persons such as a member of Scheduled Cast, Scheduled Tribe, a woman or a child, a mentally ill or otherwise disabled persons etc., are entitled to legal services under the Act without any income limit. Apart from such excluded categories as mentioned in clause (a) to (g) of Section 12, clause (h) of that section prescribes income limit in other cases. Accordingly, a person in receipt of annual income less than Rupees nine thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the State Government, if the case is before a Court other than Supreme Court, and less than Rupees twelve thousand or such other higher amount as may be prescribed by the Central Government if the case is before the Supreme Court, is entitled to legal services under the Act. In exercise of its power under this clause, the Central Government has raised the limit of Rupees twelve thousand to Rupees fifty thousand. As regards other cases with which State Governments are concerned, different States have prescribed different limits.

Recently, a decision has been taken at the fourth Annual Meet of the State Legal Services Authorities held under the aegis of the NALSA on 29.2.2004 & 1.3.2004 at Kolkata to raise the income ceiling in terms of Section 12 (h) of the Legal Services Act, 1987 (as amended), from Rs. 25,000/- to Rs. 50,000/- per annum in respect of cases before the High Court and Courts subordinate thereto.

Statement

(State-wise Number of persons benefitted from the legal aid scheme since the inception of the State Legal Aid and Advice Board/State Legal Service Authorities to 31.12.2004)

S. No	. Name of the State	SC	ST	BC	Women	Children in	custody	General	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	5,344	5,078	7,522	4,406	91	29	21.878	44,348
2	Arunachal Pradesh	67	365	46	52	4	18	1,282	1,834
3	Assam	13,552	8,789	467	9,098	796	—	41,951	74,653
4	Bihar	1,501	966	1,265	3,247	318	263	3,972	11,532
5	Chhattisgarh	683	1,164	—	828	8	3,067	3,688	9,438
6	Goa	33	1	307	301	22	752	413	1,829
7	Gujrat	5,920	3,347	—	9,483	338	405	19,624	39,117
8	Haryana	852	79	631	1,426	272	5,302	9,177	17,739
9	Himachal Pradesh	466	74	—	1,648	78	76	3,188	5,530
10	Jammu & Kashmir	833	221	782	11,328	555	174	7,648	21,541
11	Jharkhand	43	82	—	135	43	7	692	1,002
12	Karnataka	6,792	1,918	19,938	8,774	178	—	78,137	115,737
13	Kerala	216	57	178	562	59	2,730	123,447	127,249
14	Madhya Pradesh	204,204	179,349	57,056	38,573	2,044	10,744	521,654	1,013,624
15	Maharashtra	21,830	12,015	—	45,634	629	6,546	100,324	186,978
16	Manipur	—	18	—	70	12	—	48	148
17	Meghalaya	25	94	1	15	—	2	116	253
18	Mizoram 141	9,406	863	1,022	263	631	3,727	16,053	
19	Nagaiand	371	618	441	397	136	542	105	2,610
20	Orissa	28,599	19,151	—	24,681	395	212	32,017	105,055
21	Punjab	5,801	499	4,295	3,442	421	7,823	16,113	38,394
22	Rajasthan	12,417	20,191	2,511	10,285	307	4,506	16,735	66,952

S.No	. Name of the State	SC	ST	BC	Women	Children	in custody	General	Total
23	Sikkim	38	136	18	664	17	482	345	1,700
24	Tamil Nadu	139,005	20,401	—	244,520	621	9,253	936,217	1,350,017
25	Tripura	143	104	7	466	1	45	2,056	2,822
26	Uttar Pradesh	719,801	92,989	553,646	342,445	129,177	14,577	2,234,462	4,087,097
27	Uttaranchal	417	174	—	820	766	22	7,958	10,157
28	West Bengal	1,924	704	658	5,903	472	720	4,389	14,770
29	And. & Nico. Islands	—	—	—	80	—	—	316	396
30	U.T. Chandigarh	34	1	—	164	—	2,098	94	2,391
31	D & Nagar Havell	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
32	Daman & Diu	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
33	Delhi	2,800	181	255	15,219	104	29,371	47,302	95,232
34	Lakshadweep	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	3
35	Pondicherry	10,564	31	4,302	4,287	3,184	344	1,541	24,253
36	Supreme Court LSC	815	199	1,586	927	19	1,843	8,029	13,418
	TOTAL	1,185,231	378,403	656,775	790,902	141,330	102,584	4,248,648	7,503,873